

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Support for the amendment of Claim 1 is found in Claim 21.

Claim 21 is canceled.

No new matter is believed added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Claims 1-20 and 22-24 are active. Claims 12 and 13 are withdrawn.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Mazumdar for the indication that Claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 is herein amended to include the description originally in Claim 21.

The claimed invention is directed to a process for preparing a coated textile sheet having a self-cleaning surface. A method to prepare such a self-cleaning coated textile sheet suitable for producing flat, large-surface area web products which can withstand flexing or creasing without surface cracking is sought.

The claimed invention addresses this problem by providing a process comprising: i) applying a plurality of hydrophobic particles having a nanostructured surface to a surface of a transfer-medium sheet, ii) applying a coating composition and a textile sheet to said surface of said transfer-medium sheet to which said plurality of hydrophobic particles having a nanostructured surface were applied to obtain a composite, iii) heat treating said composite, and iv) removing said transfer-medium sheet from the composite and transferring the hydrophobic particles to the textile sheet to form the coated textile sheet having a self-cleaning surface comprising the hydrophobic particles having a nanostructured surface, wherein the process for producing a self-cleaning surface on a coated textile sheet is carried out without the use of any adhesive, binder, or adhesion promoter.

Applicants have described the self-cleaning property obtained according to the claimed inventive process as follows:

“It is advantageous for at least some of the hydrophobic nanostructured particles, preferably more than 50 % of the particles, to be impressed into the coating of the textile sheet only to the extent of 90 % of their diameter. The surface of the coated textile sheet therefore preferably has hydrophobic nanostructured particles anchored into the surface of the coating of the textile sheet to the extent of 10 to 90 %, preferably from 20 to 50 %, and very particularly preferably from 30 to 40 %, of their average diameter, and thus having some of their inherently fissured surface still protruding from the coating of the textile sheet. This method ensures that the elevations that are formed by the particles themselves have a sufficiently large aspect ratio, preferably at least 0.15. This method also ensures that the firmly bonded particles have a very durable bonding to the coating of the textile sheet.”(page 12, lines 25-37)

Applicants respectfully submit that no such process to prepare a coated textile sheet having a self-cleaning surface according to the claimed invention is disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

The rejection of Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 14, 16-20, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kerins et al. (U.S. 6,638,603) in view of Keller et al. (EP 1153987 equivalent to U.S. 6,683,126) is believed obviated by appropriate amendment. Claim 1 is herein amended to include the description of Claim 21, which has been indicated to be allowable. Claims 2-6, 9, 10, 14, 16-20 and 22-24 all directly or indirectly depend from Claim 1 and therefore Applicants respectfully submit these claims are also allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 14, 16-20, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kerins in view of Keller is respectfully requested.

The rejections of Claims 7, 8, 11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kerins in view of Keller and further in view of Toyoda et al. (U.S. 6,245,188), Groitzsch et al. (U.S. 5,158,636) and Van Paesschen et al. (U.S. 3,650,740), respectively, is believed obviated by appropriate amendment. Claims 7, 8, 11 and 15 all depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1. As indicated above, Claim 1 is herein believed allowable, as amended, based on the

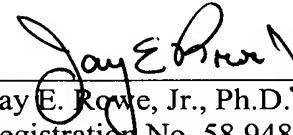
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Examiner's indication that Claim 21 would be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 7, 8, 11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kerins in view of Keller and further in view of Toyoda, Groitzsch and Van Paesschen is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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